

# 2026 NCAA Division I women's basketball tournament:

The **2026 NCAA Division I women's basketball tournament** will involve 68 teams in a [single-elimination tournament](#) to determine the [National Collegiate Athletic Association](#) (NCAA) [Division I college basketball](#) national champion for the [2025–26 NCAA Division I women's basketball season](#). The 44th edition of the [tournament](#) will begin on March 18, 2026, with the [First Four](#), and will conclude with the [championship game](#) on April 5, at the [Mortgage Matchup Center](#) in [Phoenix, Arizona](#).<sup>[4]</sup>

CAA Champion Charleston will make their NCAA tournament debut



## 2026 NCAA Division I women's basketball tournament

|                                                                                                                     |                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Season                                                                                                              | <a href="#">2025–26</a>                                                       |
| Teams                                                                                                               | 68                                                                            |
| Finals site                                                                                                         | <a href="#">Mortgage Matchup Center</a> ,<br><a href="#">Phoenix, Arizona</a> |
| <a href="#">NCAA Division I women's tournaments</a><br>« <a href="#">2025</a> <span> </span> <a href="#">2027</a> » |                                                                               |

[Atlantic 10](#) champion [Rhode Island](#) will make its second-ever appearance and its first since [1996](#). [MAC](#) champion [Miami \(OH\)](#) will make its second-ever appearance and its

first since [2008](#). [American](#) champion [UTSA](#) will make its third-ever appearance and its first time since [2009](#). [Southern](#) champion [Samford](#) will make its third-ever appearance, its first since [2012](#). [Atlantic Sun](#) champion [Jacksonville](#) will make its third-ever appearance, its first since [2016](#). [Ohio Valley](#) champion [Western Illinois](#) will make its third-ever appearance, its first since [2017](#).

## Tournament procedure

Further information: [NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament § Current tournament format](#)

A total of 68 teams will participate in the 2026 tournament, consisting of the 31 [conference](#) champions, and 37 "at-large" bids that will be determined by the NCAA Selection Committee. The last four at-large teams and teams seeded 65 through 68 overall will compete in [First Four](#) games, whose winners advance to the 64-team first round.<sup>[2]</sup>

The top 16 seeds will host the First Four, first round, and second round at their home arenas. In a procedural change, the top 16 seeds were announced in alphabetical order on Saturday, March 15 ahead of the full bracket reveal on Sunday, March 16. This was done to give host sites more time to prepare and organize the logistics required to host.<sup>[3] [4]</sup>

## 2026 NCAA Tournament schedule and venues

### First Four

- March 18 and 19
  - [Moody Center](#), [Austin, Texas](#) (Host: [University of Texas at Austin](#))
  - [Cameron Indoor Stadium](#), [Durham, North Carolina](#) (Host: [Duke University](#))
  - [Colonial Life Arena](#), [Columbia, South Carolina](#) (Host: [University of South Carolina](#))
  - [Carver–Hawkeye Arena](#), [Iowa City, Iowa](#) (Host: [University of Iowa](#))

### Subregionals (First and Second Rounds)

- March 20 and 22 (Fri/Sun)
  - [Carmichael Arena](#), [Chapel Hill, North Carolina](#) (Host: [University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#))
  - [Lloyd Noble Center](#), [Norman, Oklahoma](#) (Host: [University of Oklahoma](#))
  - [Schollmaier Arena](#), [Fort Worth, Texas](#) (Host: [Texas Christian University](#))
  - [Williams Arena](#), [Minneapolis, Minnesota](#) (Host: [University of Minnesota](#))
  - [Cameron Indoor Stadium](#), [Durham, North Carolina](#) (Host: [Duke University](#))
  - [Pete Maravich Assembly Center](#), [Baton Rouge, Louisiana](#) (Host: [Louisiana State University](#))
  - [Moody Center](#), [Austin, Texas](#) (Host: [University of Texas at Austin](#))
  - [Crisler Center](#), [Ann Arbor, Michigan](#) (Host: [University of Michigan](#))
- March 21 and 23 (Sat/Mon)

- [Harry A. Gampel Pavilion, Storrs, Connecticut](#) (Host: [University of Connecticut](#))
- [Value City Arena, Columbus, Ohio](#) (Host: [Ohio State University](#))
- [Memorial Gymnasium, Nashville, Tennessee](#) (Host: [Vanderbilt University](#))
- [Colonial Life Arena, Columbia, South Carolina](#) (Host: [University of South Carolina](#))
- [Carver–Hawkeye Arena, Iowa City, Iowa](#) (Host: [University of Iowa](#))
- [Pauley Pavilion, Los Angeles, California](#) (Host: [University of California, Los Angeles](#))
- [Hope Coliseum, Morgantown, West Virginia](#) (Host: [West Virginia University](#))
- [KFC Yum! Center, Louisville, Kentucky](#) (Host: [University of Louisville](#))

## Regional Semifinals and Finals (Sweet Sixteen and Elite Eight)<sup>[5]</sup>

- March 27–30
  - [Dickies Arena, Fort Worth, Texas](#) (Host: [Texas Christian University](#))
  - [Golden 1 Center, Sacramento, California](#) (Host: [California State University, Sacramento](#))

## National Semifinals and Championship (Final Four and Championship)<sup>[5]</sup>

- April 3 and 5
  - [Mortgage Matchup Center, Phoenix, Arizona](#) (Host: [Arizona State University](#))

Phoenix is scheduled to host the women's Final Four for the first time.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Qualification and selection of teams

Further information: [2026 NCAA Division I women's basketball tournament qualifying teams](#)

Automatic qualifiers

Teams who won their conference championships (31) automatically qualify.

| Automatic qualifiers in the 2026 NCAA Division I women's basketball tournament |                               |            |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Conference                                                                     | Team                          | Appearance | Last bid |
| <a href="#">America East</a>                                                   | <a href="#">Vermont</a>       | 9th        | 2025     |
| <a href="#">American</a>                                                       | <a href="#">UTSA</a>          | 3rd        | 2009     |
| <a href="#">Atlantic 10</a>                                                    | <a href="#">Rhode Island</a>  | 2nd        | 1996     |
| <a href="#">ACC</a>                                                            | <a href="#">Duke</a>          | 28th       | 2025     |
| <a href="#">ASUN</a>                                                           | <a href="#">Jacksonville</a>  | 2nd        | 2016     |
| <a href="#">Big 12</a>                                                         | <a href="#">West Virginia</a> | 17th       | 2025     |

# Automatic qualifiers in the 2026 NCAA Division I women's basketball tournament

| Conference                    | Team                                | Appearance | Last bid |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|----------|
| <a href="#">Big East</a>      | <a href="#">UConn</a>               | 37th       | 2025     |
| <a href="#">Big Sky</a>       | <a href="#">Idaho</a>               | 5th        | 2016     |
| <a href="#">Big South</a>     | <a href="#">High Point</a>          | 3rd        | 2025     |
| <a href="#">Big Ten</a>       | <a href="#">UCLA</a>                | 21st       | 2025     |
| <a href="#">Big West</a>      | <a href="#">UC San Diego</a>        | 2nd        | 2025     |
| <a href="#">CAA</a>           | <a href="#">Charleston</a>          | 1st        | Never    |
| <a href="#">CUSA</a>          | <a href="#">Missouri State</a>      | 18th       | 2022     |
| <a href="#">Horizon</a>       | <a href="#">Green Bay</a>           | 21st       | 2025     |
| <a href="#">Ivy League</a>    | <a href="#">Princeton</a>           | 13th       | 2025     |
| <a href="#">MAAC</a>          | <a href="#">Fairfield</a>           | 8th        | 2025     |
| <a href="#">MAC</a>           | <a href="#">Miami (OH)</a>          | 2nd        | 2008     |
| <a href="#">MEAC</a>          | <a href="#">Howard</a>              | 7th        | 2022     |
| <a href="#">MVC</a>           | <a href="#">Murray State</a>        | 3rd        | 2025     |
| <a href="#">Mountain West</a> | <a href="#">Colorado State</a>      | 7th        | 2016     |
| <a href="#">NEC</a>           | <a href="#">Fairleigh Dickinson</a> | 2nd        | 2025     |
| <a href="#">Ohio Valley</a>   | <a href="#">Western Illinois</a>    | 3rd        | 2017     |
| <a href="#">Patriot</a>       | <a href="#">Holy Cross</a>          | 15th       | 2024     |
| <a href="#">SEC</a>           | <a href="#">Texas</a>               | 38th       | 2025     |

### Automatic qualifiers in the 2026 NCAA Division I women's basketball tournament

| Conference                | Team                               | Appearance | Last bid |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|----------|
| <a href="#">Southern</a>  | <a href="#">Samford</a>            | 3rd        | 2012     |
| <a href="#">Southland</a> | <a href="#">Stephen F. Austin</a>  | 22nd       | 2025     |
| <a href="#">SWAC</a>      | <a href="#">Southern</a>           | 8th        | 2025     |
| <a href="#">Summit</a>    | <a href="#">South Dakota State</a> | 14th       | 2025     |
| <a href="#">Sun Belt</a>  | <a href="#">James Madison</a>      | 14th       | 2023     |
| <a href="#">WAC</a>       | <a href="#">California Baptist</a> | 2nd        | 2024     |
| <a href="#">WCC</a>       | <a href="#">Gonzaga</a>            | 16th       | 2024     |

### Seeds

The tournament seeds and regions are determined through the [NCAA basketball tournament selection process](#) and will be published by the selection committee after the brackets are released in March.

**Fort Worth #3 Regional – Dickies Arena, Fort Worth, TX**

**Sacramento #2 Regional – Golden 1 Center, Sacramento, CA**

**Sacramento #4 Regional – [Golden 1 Center](#), [Sacramento, CA](#)**

**Fort Worth #1 Regional – [Dickies Arena](#), [Fort Worth, TX](#)**

| Seed | School                | Conference               | Record | Overall Seed | Berth type | Last bid |
|------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------|--------------|------------|----------|
| 1    | <a href="#">UConn</a> | <a href="#">Big East</a> | 34–0   | 1            | Automatic  | 2025     |

**Fort Worth #3 Regional – Dickies Arena, Fort Worth, TX**

**Sacramento #2 Regional – Golden 1 Center, Sacramento, CA**

**Sacramento #4 Regional – [Golden 1 Center](#), [Sacramento, CA](#)**

|    |                                |                         |       |    |           |      |
|----|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|----|-----------|------|
| 2  | <a href="#">Vanderbilt</a>     | <a href="#">SEC</a>     | 27–4  | 7  | At-large  | 2025 |
| 3  | <a href="#">Ohio State</a>     | <a href="#">Big Ten</a> | 26–7  | 11 | At-large  | 2025 |
| 4  | <a href="#">North Carolina</a> | <a href="#">ACC</a>     | 26–7  | 15 | At-large  | 2025 |
| 5  | <a href="#">Maryland</a>       | Big Ten                 | 23–8  | 17 | At-large  | 2025 |
| 6  | <a href="#">Notre Dame</a>     | ACC                     | 22–10 | 21 | At-large  | 2025 |
| 7  | <a href="#">Illinois</a>       | Big Ten                 | 21–11 | 28 | At-large  | 2025 |
| 8  | <a href="#">Iowa State</a>     | <a href="#">Big 12</a>  | 22–9  | 30 | At-large  | 2025 |
| 9  | <a href="#">Syracuse</a>       | ACC                     | 23–8  | 36 | At-large  | 2024 |
| 10 | <a href="#">Colorado</a>       | Big 12                  | 22–11 | 39 | At-large  | 2024 |
| 11 | <a href="#">Fairfield</a>      | <a href="#">MAAC</a>    | 28–4  | 41 | Automatic | 2025 |
| 12 | <a href="#">Murray State</a>   | <a href="#">MVC</a>     | 31–3  | 48 | Automatic | 2025 |

**Fort Worth #3 Regional – Dickies Arena, Fort Worth, TX**

**Sacramento #2 Regional – Golden 1 Center, Sacramento, CA**

**Sacramento #4 Regional – [Golden 1 Center](#), [Sacramento, CA](#)**

|    |                                  |                           |       |    |           |      |
|----|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|----|-----------|------|
| 13 | <a href="#">Western Illinois</a> | <a href="#">OVC</a>       | 26–5  | 52 | Automatic | 2017 |
| 14 | <a href="#">Howard</a>           | <a href="#">MEAC</a>      | 26–7  | 58 | Automatic | 2022 |
| 15 | <a href="#">High Point</a>       | <a href="#">Big South</a> | 27–5  | 61 | Automatic | 2025 |
| 16 | <a href="#">UTSA</a>             | <a href="#">American</a>  | 18–15 | 64 | Automatic | 2009 |

| Seed | School                         | Conference              | Record | Overall Seed | Berth type | Last bid |
|------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------------|------------|----------|
| 1    | <a href="#">South Carolina</a> | <a href="#">SEC</a>     | 31–3   | 4            | At-large   | 2025     |
| 2    | <a href="#">Iowa</a>           | <a href="#">Big Ten</a> | 26–6   | 6            | At-large   | 2025     |
| 3    | <a href="#">TCU</a>            | <a href="#">Big 12</a>  | 29–5   | 12           | At-large   | 2025     |
| 4    | <a href="#">Oklahoma</a>       | SEC                     | 24–7   | 13           | At-large   | 2025     |
| 5    | <a href="#">Michigan State</a> | Big Ten                 | 22–8   | 20           | At-large   | 2025     |
| 6    | <a href="#">Washington</a>     | Big Ten                 | 21–10  | 23           | At-large   | 2025     |

**Fort Worth #3 Regional – Dickies Arena, Fort Worth, TX**

**Sacramento #2 Regional – Golden 1 Center, Sacramento, CA**

**Sacramento #4 Regional – [Golden 1 Center](#), [Sacramento, CA](#)**

|     |                                     |                               |       |    |           |      |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|----|-----------|------|
| 7   | <a href="#">Georgia</a>             | SEC                           | 22–9  | 27 | At-large  | 2023 |
| 8   | <a href="#">Clemson</a>             | <a href="#">ACC</a>           | 21–11 | 31 | At-large  | 2019 |
| 9   | <a href="#">USC</a>                 | Big Ten                       | 17–13 | 33 | At-large  | 2025 |
| 10* | <a href="#">Virginia</a>            | ACC                           | 19–11 | 40 | At-large  | 2018 |
|     | <a href="#">Arizona State</a>       | Big 12                        | 24–10 | 43 | At-large  | 2019 |
| 11  | <a href="#">South Dakota State</a>  | <a href="#">Summit League</a> | 27–6  | 42 | Automatic | 2025 |
| 12  | <a href="#">Colorado State</a>      | <a href="#">Mountain West</a> | 27–7  | 49 | Automatic | 2016 |
| 13  | <a href="#">Idaho</a>               | <a href="#">Big Sky</a>       | 29–5  | 53 | Automatic | 2016 |
| 14  | <a href="#">UC San Diego</a>        | <a href="#">Big West</a>      | 24–8  | 57 | Automatic | 2025 |
| 15  | <a href="#">Fairleigh Dickinson</a> | <a href="#">NEC</a>           | 30–4  | 59 | Automatic | 2025 |
| 16* | <a href="#">Southern</a>            | <a href="#">SWAC</a>          | 19–13 | 67 | Automatic | 2025 |



**Fort Worth #3 Regional – Dickies Arena, Fort Worth, TX**

**Sacramento #2 Regional – Golden 1 Center, Sacramento, CA**

**Sacramento #4 Regional – [Golden 1 Center](#), [Sacramento, CA](#)**

|      | <a href="#">Samford</a>        | <a href="#">Southern</a>   | 16–18  | 68           | Automatic  | 2012     |
|------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|--------------|------------|----------|
| Seed | School                         | Conference                 | Record | Overall Seed | Berth type | Last bid |
| 1    | <a href="#">UCLA</a>           | <a href="#">Big Ten</a>    | 31–1   | 2            | Automatic  | 2025     |
| 2    | <a href="#">LSU</a>            | <a href="#">SEC</a>        | 27–5   | 5            | At-large   | 2025     |
| 3    | <a href="#">Duke</a>           | <a href="#">ACC</a>        | 24–8   | 9            | Automatic  | 2025     |
| 4    | <a href="#">Minnesota</a>      | Big Ten                    | 22–8   | 16           | At-large   | 2018     |
| 5    | <a href="#">Ole Miss</a>       | SEC                        | 23–11  | 19           | At-large   | 2025     |
| 6    | <a href="#">Baylor</a>         | <a href="#">Big 12</a>     | 24–8   | 24           | At-large   | 2025     |
| 7    | <a href="#">Texas Tech</a>     | Big 12                     | 25–7   | 26           | At-large   | 2013     |
| 8    | <a href="#">Oklahoma State</a> | Big 12                     | 23–9   | 32           | At-large   | 2025     |
| 9    | <a href="#">Princeton</a>      | <a href="#">Ivy League</a> | 26–3   | 34           | Automatic  | 2025     |

**Fort Worth #3 Regional – Dickies Arena, Fort Worth, TX**

**Sacramento #2 Regional – Golden 1 Center, Sacramento, CA**

**Sacramento #4 Regional – [Golden 1 Center](#), [Sacramento, CA](#)**

| 10   | <a href="#">Villanova</a>          | <a href="#">Big East</a>    | 25–7   | 37           | At-large   | 2023     |
|------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|--------------|------------|----------|
| 11*  | <a href="#">Nebraska</a>           | Big Ten                     | 18–12  | 44           | At-large   | 2025     |
|      | <a href="#">Richmond</a>           | <a href="#">Atlantic 10</a> | 26–7   | 46           | At-large   | 2025     |
| 12   | <a href="#">Gonzaga</a>            | <a href="#">WCC</a>         | 24–9   | 50           | Automatic  | 2024     |
| 13   | <a href="#">Green Bay</a>          | <a href="#">Horizon</a>     | 25–8   | 54           | Automatic  | 2025     |
| 14   | <a href="#">Charleston</a>         | <a href="#">CAA</a>         | 27–5   | 55           | Automatic  | Never    |
| 15   | <a href="#">Jacksonville</a>       | <a href="#">ASUN</a>        | 24–8   | 60           | Automatic  | 2016     |
| 16   | <a href="#">California Baptist</a> | <a href="#">WAC</a>         | 23–10  | 63           | Automatic  | 2025     |
| Seed | School                             | Conference                  | Record | Overall Seed | Berth type | Last bid |
| 1    | <a href="#">Texas</a>              | <a href="#">SEC</a>         | 31–3   | 3            | Automatic  | 2025     |
| 2    | <a href="#">Michigan</a>           | <a href="#">Big Ten</a>     | 25–6   | 8            | At-large   | 2025     |

**Fort Worth #3 Regional – Dickies Arena, Fort Worth, TX**

**Sacramento #2 Regional – Golden 1 Center, Sacramento, CA**

**Sacramento #4 Regional – [Golden 1 Center](#), [Sacramento, CA](#)**

|    |                               |                             |       |    |           |      |
|----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|----|-----------|------|
| 3  | <a href="#">Louisville</a>    | <a href="#">ACC</a>         | 27–7  | 10 | At-large  | 2025 |
| 4  | <a href="#">West Virginia</a> | <a href="#">Big 12</a>      | 27–6  | 14 | Automatic | 2025 |
| 5  | <a href="#">Kentucky</a>      | SEC                         | 23–10 | 18 | At-large  | 2025 |
| 6  | <a href="#">Alabama</a>       | SEC                         | 23–10 | 22 | At-large  | 2025 |
| 7  | <a href="#">NC State</a>      | ACC                         | 20–10 | 25 | At-large  | 2025 |
| 8  | <a href="#">Oregon</a>        | Big Ten                     | 22–12 | 29 | At-large  | 2025 |
| 9  | <a href="#">Virginia Tech</a> | ACC                         | 23–9  | 35 | At-large  | 2024 |
| 10 | <a href="#">Tennessee</a>     | SEC                         | 16–13 | 38 | At-large  | 2025 |
| 11 | <a href="#">Rhode Island</a>  | <a href="#">Atlantic 10</a> | 28–4  | 45 | Automatic | 1996 |
| 12 | <a href="#">James Madison</a> | <a href="#">Sun Belt</a>    | 26–8  | 47 | Automatic | 2023 |
| 13 | <a href="#">Miami (OH)</a>    | <a href="#">MAC</a>         | 28–6  | 51 | Automatic | 2008 |

Fort Worth #3 Regional – Dickies Arena, Fort Worth, TX

Sacramento #2 Regional – Golden 1 Center, Sacramento, CA

Sacramento #4 Regional – [Golden 1 Center](#), [Sacramento, CA](#)

|     |                                   |                              |       |    |           |      |
|-----|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|----|-----------|------|
| 14  | <a href="#">Vermont</a>           | <a href="#">America East</a> | 27–7  | 56 | Automatic | 2025 |
| 15  | <a href="#">Holy Cross</a>        | <a href="#">Patriot</a>      | 23–9  | 62 | Automatic | 2024 |
| 16* | <a href="#">Missouri State</a>    | <a href="#">CUSA</a>         | 22–12 | 65 | Automatic | 2022 |
|     | <a href="#">Stephen F. Austin</a> | <a href="#">Southland</a>    | 25–9  | 66 | Automatic | 2025 |

\*See [First Four](#)

Source:-->

Tournament bracket

All times are listed in [Eastern Daylight Time \(UTC-4\)](#). Games on ESPN ABC, ESPN2, and ESPNU are also on [ESPN+](#).

First Four

The [First Four](#) games involve eight teams: the four lowest-seeded automatic qualifiers and the four lowest-seeded at-large teams.

March 18 – Fort Worth Regional 3

[Austin, Texas](#)

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|

|                                                                            |                                   |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 16                                                                         | <a href="#">Missouri State</a>    | 9:00 p.m. |
| 16                                                                         | <a href="#">Stephen F. Austin</a> | ESPN2     |
| March 18 – Sacramento Regional 2<br><a href="#">Durham, North Carolina</a> |                                   |           |

|                                                                              |                          |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 11                                                                           | <a href="#">Nebraska</a> | 7:00 p.m. |
| 11                                                                           | <a href="#">Richmond</a> | ESPN2     |
| March 19 – Sacramento Regional 4<br><a href="#">Columbia, South Carolina</a> |                          |           |

|    |                          |           |
|----|--------------------------|-----------|
| 16 | <a href="#">Samford</a>  | 7:00 p.m. |
| 16 | <a href="#">Southern</a> | ESPN2     |

March 19 – Sacramento Regional 4  
[Iowa City, Iowa](#)

|    |                               |           |
|----|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 10 | <a href="#">Virginia</a>      | 9:00 p.m. |
| 10 | <a href="#">Arizona State</a> | ESPN2     |

Fort Worth #1 regional – Fort Worth, Texas

|                                           |                                            |                                             |                                       |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| First round<br>Round of 64<br>March 20–22 | Second round<br>Round of 32<br>March 21–23 | Regional semifinals<br>Sweet 16<br>March 27 | Regional Final<br>Elite 8<br>March 29 |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

|                                               |                       |           |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|--|--|--|
| 1                                             | <a href="#">UConn</a> | 3:00 p.m. |  |  |  |
| 16                                            | <a href="#">UTSA</a>  | ABC       |  |  |  |
| <a href="#">Storrs, Connecticut</a> – Sat/Mon |                       |           |  |  |  |

|                                                          |                                |           |  |  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|
| 8                                                        | <a href="#">Iowa State</a>     | 5:30 p.m. |  |  |  |
| 9                                                        | <a href="#">Syracuse</a>       | ESPN2     |  |  |  |
| 5                                                        | <a href="#">Maryland</a>       | 3:00 p.m. |  |  |  |
| 12                                                       | <a href="#">Murray State</a>   | ESPNU     |  |  |  |
| <a href="#">Chapel Hill, North Carolina</a> –<br>Fri/Sun |                                |           |  |  |  |
| 4                                                        | <a href="#">North Carolina</a> | 5:30 p.m. |  |  |  |
|                                                          |                                |           |  |  |  |







Sacramento #4 regional – Sacramento, California

|                                           |                                            |                                             |                                       |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| First round<br>Round of 64<br>March 20–22 | Second round<br>Round of 32<br>March 21–23 | Regional semifinals<br>Sweet 16<br>March 28 | Regional Final<br>Elite 8<br>March 30 |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

|                                                       |                                |           |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|
| 1                                                     | <a href="#">South Carolina</a> | 1:00 p.m. |  |  |  |
| 16                                                    | Samford/Southern               | ABC       |  |  |  |
| <a href="#">Columbia, South Carolina</a> –<br>Sat/Mon |                                |           |  |  |  |
| 8                                                     | <a href="#">Clemson</a>        | 3:30 p.m. |  |  |  |
| 9                                                     | <a href="#">USC</a>            | ESPN2     |  |  |  |

|                                            |                                |            |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|--|--|--|--|
| 5                                          | <a href="#">Michigan State</a> | 7:30 p.m.  |  |  |  |  |
| 12                                         | <a href="#">Colorado State</a> | ESPNews    |  |  |  |  |
| <a href="#">Norman, Oklahoma</a> – Fri/Sun |                                |            |  |  |  |  |
| 4                                          | <a href="#">Oklahoma</a>       | 10:00 p.m. |  |  |  |  |
| 13                                         | <a href="#">Idaho</a>          | ESPN       |  |  |  |  |
| 6                                          | <a href="#">Washington</a>     | 2:30 p.m.  |  |  |  |  |
|                                            |                                |            |  |  |  |  |

|                                             |                                    |            |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|--|--|--|
| 11                                          | <a href="#">South Dakota State</a> | ESPNews    |  |  |  |
| <a href="#">Fort Worth, Texas</a> – Fri/Sun |                                    |            |  |  |  |
| 3                                           | <a href="#">TCU</a>                | 12:00 p.m. |  |  |  |
| 14                                          | <a href="#">UC San Diego</a>       | ESPN       |  |  |  |
|                                             |                                    |            |  |  |  |
|                                             |                                    |            |  |  |  |
| 7                                           | <a href="#">Georgia</a>            | 1:30 p.m.  |  |  |  |
| 10                                          | Virginia/Arizona State             | ESPN2      |  |  |  |
| <a href="#">Iowa City, Iowa</a> – Sat/Mon   |                                    |            |  |  |  |
|                                             |                                    |            |  |  |  |



[Los Angeles, California](#) – Sat/Mon

|   |                                |              |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 8 | <a href="#">Oklahoma State</a> | 7:30<br>p.m. |
| 9 | <a href="#">Princeton</a>      | ESPN2        |

|    |                          |              |
|----|--------------------------|--------------|
| 5  | <a href="#">Ole Miss</a> | 3:30<br>p.m. |
| 12 | <a href="#">Gonzaga</a>  | ESPN2        |

[Minneapolis, Minnesota](#) – Fri/Sun

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|

|    |                                                  |               |  |  |  |  |
|----|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|--|--|--|--|
| 4  | <a href="#">Minnesota</a>                        | 6:00<br>p.m.  |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | <a href="#">Green Bay</a>                        | ESPNU         |  |  |  |  |
|    |                                                  |               |  |  |  |  |
|    |                                                  |               |  |  |  |  |
| 6  | <a href="#">Baylor</a>                           | 2:00<br>p.m.  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | Nebraska/Richmond                                | ESPN          |  |  |  |  |
|    |                                                  |               |  |  |  |  |
|    |                                                  |               |  |  |  |  |
|    | <a href="#">Durham, North Carolina</a> – Fri/Sun |               |  |  |  |  |
| 3  | <a href="#">Duke</a>                             | 11:30<br>a.m. |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | <a href="#">Charleston</a>                       | ESPN2         |  |  |  |  |





[Golden 1 Center](#) – [Sacramento, CA](#)

**Sacramento #2 regional all-tournament team**

Fort Worth #3 regional – Fort Worth, TX

First round  
Round of 64  
March 20–22

Second round  
Round of 32  
March 21–23

Regional semifinals  
Sweet 16  
March 28

Regional Final  
Elite 8  
March 30

|                                         |                                     |           |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|
| 1                                       | <a href="#">Texas</a>               | 4:00 p.m. |  |  |  |
| 16                                      | Stephen F.<br>Austin/Missouri State | ESPN      |  |  |  |
| <a href="#">Austin, Texas</a> – Fri/Sun |                                     |           |  |  |  |
| 8                                       | <a href="#">Oregon</a>              | 1:30 p.m. |  |  |  |
| 9                                       | <a href="#">Virginia Tech</a>       | ESPN2     |  |  |  |



|                                                |                              |            |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 11                                             | <a href="#">Rhode Island</a> | ESPNews    |  |  |  |  |  |
| <a href="#">Louisville, Kentucky</a> – Sat/Mon |                              |            |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3                                              | <a href="#">Louisville</a>   | 12:00 p.m. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14                                             | <a href="#">Vermont</a>      | ESPN       |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7                                              | <a href="#">NC State</a>     | 8:00 p.m.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10                                             | <a href="#">Tennessee</a>    | ESPN       |  |  |  |  |  |
| <a href="#">Ann Arbor, Michigan</a> – Fri/Sun  |                              |            |  |  |  |  |  |

|    |                            |           |  |  |  |
|----|----------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|
| 2  | <a href="#">Michigan</a>   | 5:30 p.m. |  |  |  |
| 15 | <a href="#">Holy Cross</a> | ESPN2     |  |  |  |

### Fort Worth #3 regional final

TBD

March 30

TBD

Dickies Arena – Fort Worth, TX

### Fort Worth #3 regional all-tournament team

Final Four - Mortgage Matchup Center, Phoenix, AZ

During the Final Four round, regardless of the seeds of the participating teams, the champion of the top overall top seed's region (TBD, TBD Region) plays against the champion of the fourth-ranked top seed's region (TBD, TBD Region), and the champion of the second overall top seed's region (TBD, TBD Region) plays against the champion of the third-ranked top seed's region (TBD, TBD Region).

National Semifinals  
Final Four  
Friday, April 3

National Championship Game  
Sunday, April 5

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|



Mortgage Matchup Center –  
Phoenix, AZ

**National championship (Final)**

Main article: [2026 NCAA Division I women's basketball championship game](#)

April 5

Mortgage Matchup Center –  
Phoenix, AZ

**Final Four all-tournament team**

Tournament notes

Upsets

Per the NCAA, an upset occurs "when the losing team in an NCAA tournament game was seeded at least five seed lines better than the winning team."<sup>[[?\]](#)]</sup>

| Upsets in the 2026 NCAA Division I women's basketball tournament |               |               |               |               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Round                                                            | Fort Worth #1 | Sacramento #2 | Fort Worth #3 | Sacramento #4 |
| First Four                                                       | None          |               |               |               |
| Round of 64                                                      | None          |               |               |               |
| Round of 32                                                      | None          |               |               |               |
| Sweet 16                                                         | None          |               |               |               |
| Elite 8                                                          | None          |               |               |               |
| Final 4                                                          | None          |               |               |               |
| National Championship                                            | None          |               |               |               |

Tournament records

Game officials

First Four

First and second rounds

Regional semifinals and final (Sweet 16 and Elite Eight)

National semifinals and final (Final Four and National Championship)

Record by conference

| Conference                   | Bids | Record | Win % | R64 | R32 | S16 | E8 | F4 | CG | NC |
|------------------------------|------|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| <a href="#">America East</a> |      | 0–0    | –     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">American</a>     |      | 0–0    | –     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">ACC</a>          |      | 0–0    | –     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">Atlantic Sun</a> |      | 0–0    | –     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">Atlantic 10</a>  |      | 0–0    | –     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">Big Ten</a>      |      | 0–0    | –     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">Big 12</a>       |      | 0–0    | –     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">Big East</a>     |      | 0–0    | –     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">Big Sky</a>      |      | 0–0    | –     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">Big South</a>    |      | 0–0    | –     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |

| Conference                    | Bids | Record | Win % | R64 | R32 | S16 | E8 | F4 | CG | NC |
|-------------------------------|------|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| <a href="#">Big West</a>      |      | 0-0    | —     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">CAA</a>           |      | 0-0    | —     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">CUSA</a>          |      | 0-0    | —     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">Horizon</a>       |      | 0-0    | —     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">Ivy</a>           |      | 0-0    | —     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">MAAC</a>          |      | 0-0    | —     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">MAC</a>           |      | 0-0    | —     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">MEAC</a>          |      | 0-0    | —     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">MVC</a>           |      | 0-0    | —     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">Mountain West</a> |      | 0-0    | —     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">NEC</a>           |      | 0-0    | —     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">OVC</a>           |      | 0-0    | —     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">SEC</a>           |      | 0-0    | —     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |



| Conference                | Bids | Record | Win % | R64 | R32 | S16 | E8 | F4 | CG | NC |
|---------------------------|------|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| <a href="#">Southern</a>  |      | 0–0    | –     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">Southland</a> |      | 0–0    | –     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">SWAC</a>      |      | 0–0    | –     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">Summit</a>    |      | 0–0    | –     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">Sun Belt</a>  |      | 0–0    | –     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">WCC</a>       |      | 0–0    | –     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
| <a href="#">WAC</a>       |      | 0–0    | –     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |

- The R64, R32, S16, E8, F4, CG, and NC columns indicate how many teams from each conference were in the round of 64 (second round), round of 32 (third round), Sweet 16 and Elite Eight (regional semifinals and finals), Final Four and championship game (national semifinal and final), and national champion, respectively.
- The "Record" column includes wins in the first round (First Four) for TBD.
- The "Record" column also includes losses in the first round (First Four) for TBD and TBD.
- The TBD and TBD each had one representative, eliminated in the first round with a record of 0–1.
- The TBD each had one representative, eliminated in the second round with a record of 0–1.

## Media coverage

### Television

[ESPN](#) broadcast each game of the tournament across either [ESPN](#), [ESPN2](#), [ESPNU](#), [ESPNEWS](#), or [ABC](#). For the fourth consecutive season, the national championship game aired on ABC.<sup>[8][9]</sup>

## Studio host and analysts

- Christine Williamson (host) (first four, first/second rounds, regionals, Final Four, and national championship)
- [Kelsey Riggs Cuff](#) (host) (first/second rounds and regionals)

- [Andraya Carter](#) (analyst) (first four, first/second rounds, regionals, Final Four and national championship)
- [Chiney Ogwumike](#) (analyst) (first/second rounds, regionals, Final Four and national championship)
- [Muffet McGraw](#) (analyst) (first/second rounds and regionals)
- Meghan McKeown (analyst) (first/second rounds and regionals)
- [Dee Kantner](#) (rules analyst) (first four, first/second rounds, regionals, Final Four, and national championship)
- [Violet Palmer](#) (rules analyst) (first four, first/second rounds, and regionals)

### Commentary teams

#### *First Four*<sup>[10]</sup>

- [Dave O'Brien](#) and [Jimmy Dykes](#) – Austin, Texas
- [Jenn Hildreth](#) and Kelly Gramlich – Durham, North Carolina
- Courtney Lyle, and [Steffi Sorensen](#) – Columbia, South Carolina
- Matt Schumacker and [Ros Gold-Onwude](#) – Iowa City, Iowa

#### *First & second rounds; Friday-Monday (Subregionals)* <sup>[10]</sup>

- [Mark Neely](#) and Angel Gray – Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- Sam Gore and [Tamika Catchings](#) – Norman, Oklahoma
- Chuckie Kempf and [Brooke Weisbrod](#) – Fort Worth, Texas
- [Krista Blunk](#) and [Andrea Lloyd-Curry](#) – Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Jenn Hildreth and Kelly Gramlich – Durham, North Carolina
- Tiffany Greene, [Carolyn Peck](#), and [Alyssa Lang](#) – Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Dave O'Brien and Jimmy Dykes – Austin, Texas
- [Beth Mowins](#), [Debbie Antonelli](#), and [Jess Sims](#) – Ann Arbor, Michigan

#### *First & second rounds Saturday/Monday (Subregionals)*<sup>[10]</sup>

- [Ryan Ruocco](#), [Rebecca Lobo](#), and [Holly Rowe](#) – Storrs, Connecticut
- Roy Philpott and [Nell Fortner](#) – Columbus, Ohio
- Jay Alter and Kim Adams – Nashville, Tennessee
- Courtney Lyle, [Stephanie White](#), and [Molly McGrath](#) – Columbia, South Carolina
- Matt Schumacker and Ros Gold-Onwude – Iowa City, Iowa
- [Eric Frede](#) and Christy Thomaskutty – Los Angeles, California (UCLA)
- [Brenda VanLengen](#) and Anne O'Neil – Morgantown, West Virginia
- [Wes Durham](#) and [Angela Taylor](#) – Louisville, Kentucky

### Radio

[Westwood One](#) will serve as radio broadcaster of the tournament.

#### *Regional semifinals and final (Sweet 16 and Elite Eight)*

- Tiffany Greene, Carolyn Peck, and Holly Rowe
- Ryan Ruocco, Rebecca Lobo, and Holly Rowe
- Courtney Lyle, Stephanie White, and [Kris Budden](#)
- Beth Mowins, Debbie Antonelli, and Jess Sims

#### *National semifinal and final (Final Four and National Championship)*<sup>[10]</sup>

- Ryan Ruocco, Rebecca Lobo, and Holly Rowe – P

## Television ratings

Most watched tournament games

(#) Tournament seedings and region in parentheses.

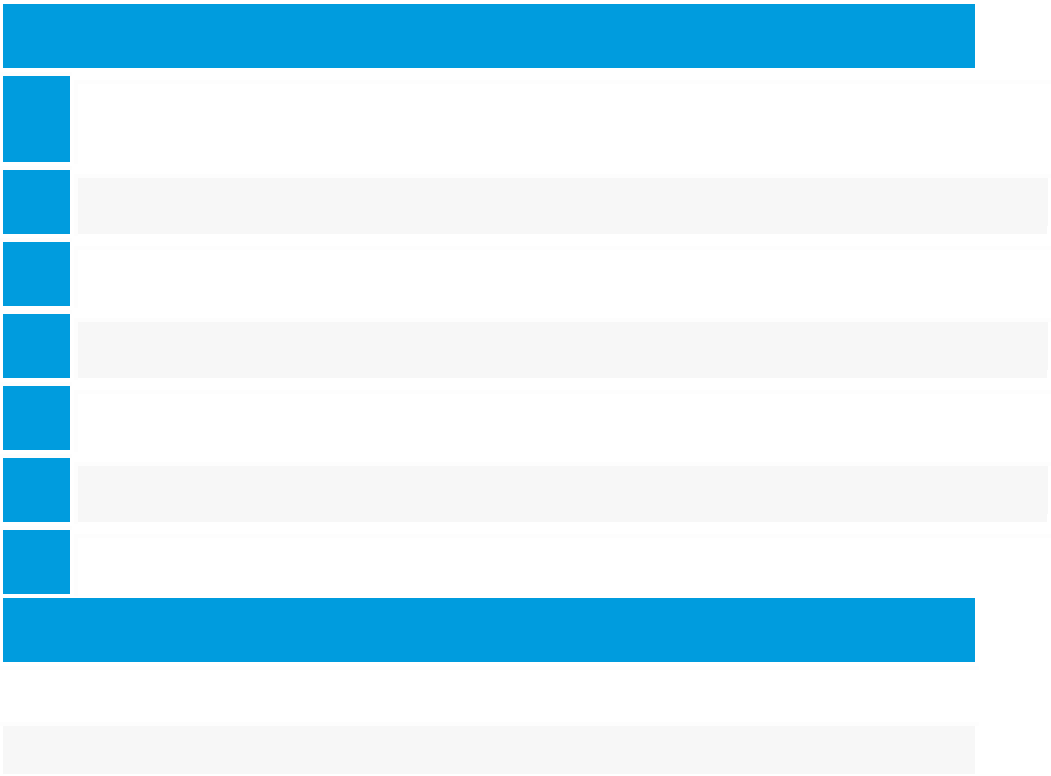
| Rank | Round | Date and time<br>( <a href="#">ET</a> ) | Matchup | Network | Viewers<br>(millions) | TV<br>rating |
|------|-------|-----------------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------|--------------|
| TBD  |       |                                         |         |         |                       |              |

See also

- [2026 NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament](#)
- [2026 NCAA Division II women's basketball tournament](#)
- [2026 NCAA Division III women's basketball tournament](#)
- [2026 NAIA women's basketball tournament](#)
- [2026 Women's Basketball Invitation Tournament](#)
- [2026 Women's National Invitation Tournament](#)

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2026 NCAA Division I women's basketball tournaments



